



GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND LABOR RELATIONS WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, January 22, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Members: Christine Cordon (Chair); Jill McLewis (Vice Chair); Michael Allawos; Dana Anderson; Jan Arbuckle; Angelica Avila; Terrie Barr; Kathleen Boutte Foster; Matthew Bronson; Dan Buckshi; Yulia Carter; Jennifer Cervantez; Savita Chaudhary; Mario Fernandez; Angelica Frausto-Lupo; Dante Hall; Jill Hoffman; Britt Huff; Bill Hussey; Randi Johl; Michael MacDonald; Katherine Mirassou; Brian Mohan; John Morada; Rebecca Neves; Alvaro Nunez; Cerina Otero; Travis Paden; Chelsea Palacio; La Vonda Pearson; Thai Viet Phan; Farbod Pirouzmand; Chaps Poduri; Emily Ramos; Natalie Rogers; Shawn Smith; Blair Stewart; Genevieve Suzuki; Toni Taber; Jim Vanderpool; Jerrod Vanlandingham; Wendy Wood; Frank Yokoyama

Staff: Johnnie Pina, Legislative Advocate

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting opened with Chair Christine Cordon and Vice-Chair Jill McLewis welcoming committee members and attendees.

II. **Public Comment**

Chair Cordon opened the floor up for members of the public who wish to speak. No public comment was provided.

III. **Committee Orientation**

Cal Cities Advocate, Johnnie Pina, provided the committee with an overview of the policy committee. He outlined how issues are added to the agenda, the standards to determine statewide policy significance, the role of the board of directors, and various legislative positions that the committee can take.

IV. **Cal Cities 2026 Advocacy Priorities**

Mr. Pina then went over the updated Cal Cities 2026 Advocacy Priorities that the Cal Cities Board of Directors adopted at the December League Leaders Meeting.

V. **Adoption of 2026 Work Plan**

Mr. Pina presented the top priorities identified by members in our 2026 GTLR Workplan Survey. In addition to the advocacy goals, the Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations Policy Committee developed a work program that includes the following items:

Artificial Intelligence and Technology:

- The committee will be briefed on emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), as it relates to the work of cities. The committee will also

be kept well informed on legislation relating to how cities use AI and technology.

Governance and Transparency:

- The committee will advocate for and receive regular updates on legislation that seeks to make reasonable changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act and solutions to reduce abuses of public record requests.

Labor Relations:

- The committee will be kept well informed on legislation that impacts cities as employers. The committee will advocate to protect cities from unworkable mandates.

Elections:

- The committee will keep up to date on issues related to changes in election law.

VI. Update to Existing Policy and Guiding Principles

Mr. Pina then delivered an update on the organization's existing policy and guiding principles. He provided an overview of the seven Cal Cities policy committees and described the biennial update process for the guiding principles, which serve as a reference point for Cal Cities' formal advocacy and issue positions. Cal Cities staff presented the recommended updates to the existing GTLR guidelines and principals. The Committee adopted the update with no edits.

VII. Institute for Local Government Update

Erica Manuel, CEO and Executive Director, Institute for Local Government presented on the work ILG has done related to the [Bridge Public Sector Apprenticeships](#). She also presented on the topic of [How to reverse the erosion of trust in local government](#). There was active participation from the Committee and several questions for the speaker.

VIII. City of San Jose Artificial Intelligence Update

Albert Gehami, City Privacy & AI Officer, Information Technology Department, City of San José presented on the work the city of San Jose has done in the artificial intelligence space and what they have done with the Gov AI Coalition. The committee then had several questions and had a robust discussion.

IX. Artificial Intelligence in Local government (Invited)

Senator Christopher Cabaldon, Chair, Senate Committee on Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection was invited but unable to attend the meeting.

X. Legislative Agenda

The committee voted to adopt the following Artificial Intelligence Policy with one no vote:

Artificial Intelligence

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) recognizes the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on city operations and the ability of cities to provide services to residents. Cal Cities supports ensuring AI serves as a tool for innovation while prioritizing local governance and public trust.

Cities must retain the authority to decide on behalf of their own communities the extent to which they adopt AI technologies for municipal operations. Overly prescriptive or restrictive regulations may limit cities' ability to effectively use AI to improve services and respond to local needs.

Cal Cities supports policies that provide technical assistance and funding for cities implementing AI solutions and programs that provide AI education and training for municipal employees.

XI. Legislative Update

The meeting continued with a legislative update from Mr. Pina who presented the various newly introduced GTLR bills for the 2026 session and carry over 2-year bills. He also discussed broader issues he anticipates will be forthcoming.

XII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 26 (Hilton Orange County/ Costa Mesa), 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.